

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 890

By Woodson

A RESOLUTION urging the County Clerks of Tennessee to provide a display of informative pamphlets on the dangers of fifteen-passenger vans.

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has determined that the risk of a rollover crash is increased greatly when ten or more persons ride in a fifteen-passenger van; and

WHEREAS, eighty percent of the persons killed in rollover crashes in fifteen-passenger vans were not wearing safety belts at the time of the accident; and

WHEREAS, significant differences in the design and handling of the fifteen-passenger van make it drive differently than other passenger vehicles; and

WHEREAS, there are certain measures passengers and drivers can employ to avoid the risk of a rollover crash by a fifteen-passenger van; and

WHEREAS, many members of the public are not aware of the heightened risks of fifteen-passenger vans, nor do they know of ways to mitigate such risks; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation produces and distributes pamphlets regarding the inherent dangers of fifteen-passenger vans at no cost to the recipients; and

WHEREAS, not only are county clerks' offices the most accessible and utilized government office, a visit to the office of county clerk is the time when the motor vehicle public is thinking about issues of transportation and safety; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the members of this General Assembly urge each County Clerk in Tennessee to provide an area for display of pamphlets, produced and furnished by the United

States Department of Transportation, that alert consumers to the possible dangers of fifteen-passenger vans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge the Department of Safety to study the dangers associated with fifteen-passenger vans and the feasibility of incorporating information relative to the dangers associated with fifteen-passenger vans in the Driver License Handbook, and to report its findings and recommendations on these issues to the General Assembly no later than February 1, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to each County Clerk in this State and to the Commissioner of Safety.